



Maritime OPINTEL Report

**(U) WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS)
Report**

8 September 2013 – 9 October 2013

10 October 2013

Maritime Crime/Piracy

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1. (U) Scope Note

(U) The Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) message provides info on piracy threats to, and criminal action against, merchant vessels worldwide in the last 30 days. This report is produced primarily to inform merchant mariners and naval forces.

2. (U) Summary

1. (U) INDONESIA: On 7 October, a product tanker was boarded at Karimun Transshipment Area.

2. (U) INDONESIA: On 7 October, an anchored tanker was boarded at Karimun Transshipment Anchorage.

3. (U) INDONESIA: On 6 October, an anchored tanker was boarded at Nipah Anchorage.

4. (U) INDONESIA: On 6 October, an anchored tanker was boarded at Nipah Anchorage.

5. (U) GRENADA: On 6 October, a sailing vessel was boarded in Prickly Bay.

6. (U) INDONESIA: On 5 October, an anchored tanker was boarded at Santan Anchorage.

7. (U) ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES: On 3 October, a sailing vessel was boarded off Frigate Island.

8. (U) TOBAGO: On 26 September, a cruising catamaran was boarded in Bloody Bay.

9. (U) ITALY: On 23 September, a dinghy was stolen at Portopalo di Capi Passero in Sicily.

10. (U) INDONESIA: on 22 September, an underway tug was boarded in the Malacca Strait TSS Westbound Lane.

11. (U) BANGLADESH: Between 14 and 15 September, 65 fishermen were kidnapped from their vessels along the coast and in the Sundarbans near Dublar Char.

12. (U) INDONESIA: On 11 September, a tanker was boarded at Nipah Anchorage.

3. (U) Counter-Piracy and Maritime Crime Announcements and Advisories

A. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Government of Japan convoy schedule for October 2013. Merchant vessels that wish to apply for JMSDF escort operation should visit http://www.mlit.go.jp/en/maritime/maritime_fr2_000000.html, please contact directly the Anti-Piracy Contact and Coordination Office, Maritime Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLT), Japan: Tel: +81-3-5253-8932 Fax: +81-3-5253-1643 Email: INFO-PIRACY@mlit.go.jp (MSCHOA).

B. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Korean Navy convoy schedule for October 2013. All merchant vessels wishing to join the convoy group must submit their application forms directly to the ROK naval warship carrying out the mission. The ROK MTG can be reached directly at (INMARSAT: 870-773-110-374), (Email: rokcheonghae@gmail.com) (MSCHOA).

C. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Chinese Navy convoy schedule for October 2013. For further information, please e-mail cnmrcc@msa.gov.cn, cnmrcc@mot.gov.cn, or call Tel: 86-10-652-92221 Fax: 86-10-652-92245 (MSCHOA).

D. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Indian Navy convoy escort schedule for October 2013. To register, email antipiracyescort@dgshipping.com or dgcommcentre@satyammil.net, or visit www.dgshipping.com. Telephone numbers for contact are: 91-22-22614646 or fax at 91-22- 22613636 (MSCHOA).

4. (U) Details: Monthly Incidents by Region

(U) This section lists reports of active violence against shipping, credible threats to shipping, or the potential for a situation to develop into a direct threat to shipping over the last 30 days. Designation of a high-threat area is based on an assessment of all source information relating to the existence of, or potential for, piracy and other crime, terrorism, civil unrest, or low-intensity conflict. Every effort is made to ensure that incidents are not double-counted. In the event double-counting is detected, or an incident is later learned to be different than initially reported, an explanation of the cancellation of the inaccurate report will be made in at least one message prior to dropping the erroneous report.

A. (U) **NORTH AMERICA**: No current incidents to report.

B. (U) CENTRAL AMERICA–CARIBBEAN:

1. (U) GRENADA: On 6 October between 0145 and 0430, perpetrator(s) boarded sailing vessel SOULMATIE in Prickly Bay by Calabash beach. The owners were not present when the incident occurred, but found the perpetrator(s) forced open the locked companionway and stole cash and most of the loose electronics. (noonsite.com)

2. (U) ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES: On 3 October at 2040, a group of men with machetes boarded sailing vessel RAINBOW off Union Island at Frigate Island. They attacked the two people onboard; one of whom fought off the attackers. Local rescue, Coast Guard, and police were able to respond and had an ambulance waiting for their medical care. (noonsite.com)

3. (U) TOBAGO: On 26 September at 0100, four men boarded a cruising catamaran in Bloody Bay. A crewmember was restrained and threatened with a pistol while the captain attempted to repel the men and was hit with the flat side of his own machete. Another captain of the other cruising boat in the bay was fired at twice as she attempted to approach in her dinghy. After firing at the dinghy and discovering the crew of the catamaran only had a small amount of money, the men departed the vessel in a panicked state. Police later interviewed the captain. (noonsite.com)

C. (U) SOUTH AMERICA: No current incidents to report.

D. (U) ATLANTIC OCEAN AREA: No current incidents to report.

E. (U) NORTHERN EUROPE–BALTIC: No current incidents to report.

F. (U) MEDITERRANEAN–BLACK SEA:

1. (U) ITALY: On 23 September, robbers stole a dinghy from the owners of an anchored sailing vessel at Portopalo di Capo Passero in Sicily had used to access the pier. The owners returned the next morning to file a police report. (noonsite.com)

G. (U) WEST AFRICA:**H. (U) INDIAN OCEAN–EAST AFRICA:**

1. (U) BANGLADESH: Between 14 and 15 September, robbers kidnapped 65 fishermen from their vessels from the sea and in the Sundarbans, near Dublar Char. The robbers looted fish and nets worth about \$12,846, and demanded a ransom of approximately \$1,285 for each fisherman, threatening to kill them if they did not receive the ransom. The Bangladeshi Coast Guard conducted a search of coastal areas of the Sundarbans, but was unable to locate the missing fishermen. (www.notunkhobor.com-Bangladeshi news source)

I. (U) PERSIAN GULF: No current incidents to report.

J. (U) SOUTHEAST ASIA:

1. (U) INDONESIA: On 7 October at 0342 local time, four robbers with knives boarded a product tanker performing ship-to-ship transfer (STS) operations at Karimun Transshipment Area. One robber remained in their boat. Another group of robbers was discovered onboard the other STS tanker and an alarm was raised. The crew spotted the robbers, who escaped without stealing anything. (IMB)

2. (U) INDONESIA: On 7 October at 0345 local time, five robbers boarded anchored tanker PIONEER EXPRESS during STS operations at Karimun Transshipment Anchorage. Robbers boarded via the poop deck and attempted to enter the accommodation area. The alarm was raised and the crew mustered. Upon hearing the alarm, the robbers made threatening gestures to the crew, jumped overboard, and escaped in their unlit boat that had an orange superstructure. The mooring master and the other STS vessel were informed as well. A detailed search on both vessels indicated that the robbers had boarded both vessels. Port control was informed. (IMB, IMO)

3. (U) INDONESIA: On 6 October at 0410 local time, six robbers dressed in black boarded anchored tanker ARMADA ALI at Nipah anchorage and tried to enter the accommodation area. The alert duty officer raised the alarm and sounded the ship's whistle. The robbers heard the alarm, jumped overboard, and escaped in their wooden boat, that had an orange canopy. Vessels in the vicinity were alerted via VHF. The crew mustered and a search was carried out. (IMB, IMO)

4. (U) INDONESIA: On 6 October at 0242 local time, robbers attempted to board an anchored tanker that was preparing for STS operations at Nipah anchorage. The duty crewmember noticed suspicious boats near aft of the vessel. As he approached he found ladders attached to the side of the ship and robbers trying to board the vessel. He immediately informed the officer of the watch (OOW) and raised the alarm. All of the crew proceeded towards the poop deck. The robbers saw the alert crew, aborted the attempt to board, and moved away. The vessel alongside the tanker and other vessels in the area were alerted of the incident. (IMB)

5. (U) INDONESIA: On 5 October at 0040 local time, robbers with knives boarded anchored tanker HS CARMEN that was awaiting cargo operations at Santan anchorage. The duty crew noticed movements at the forecastle, informed the bridge, and proceeded towards the forecastle to investigate. The duty officer raised the alarm and the crew mustered. Upon reaching the forecastle the robbers threatened the crews with long knives and escaped. The crew retrieved the stores the robbers were trying to steal. Port authorities were informed but no response was received. The incidents were reported to the local police via the ship's agent. (IMB, IMO)

6. (U) INDONESIA: On 1 October at 0355 local time, four robbers in a wooden boat approached and boarded an anchored chemical tanker at Batam Anchorage. When a crewmember noticed the robbers, he raised the alarm and the crew mustered. Seeing the crew alertness, the robbers threatened the duty crew with a long knife and escaped in their wooden boat. Nothing was reported stolen during the incident. (IMB)

7. (U) INDONESIA: On 27 September at 1440 local time, five robbers in a wooden boat approached an anchored tanker at position 03:58N – 098:45E, Belawan Anchorage. One robber managed to board via the hawse pipe. When the duty seaman noticed the robber, he raised alarm

and alerted the crew. The robber subsequently escaped in the waiting boat with his accomplices. Nothing was stolen during the incident. (IMB)

8. (U) INDONESIA: on 26 September at 0200 local time, eight robbers armed with knives boarded anchored bulk carrier **ROSALIA D'AMATO** at the Samarinda Anchorage. They stole ship's stores and departed. (IMB, **IMO**)

9. (U) INDONESIA: On 23 September, robbers boarded the Marshall Islands-flagged tanker **ARMADA ALI** at position 01:07N - 103:37E, Nipah Anchorage. Three robbers armed with knives boarded an anchored tanker during transfer operations. Duty crewmen challenged the robbers, who threw bolts and nuts and a knife at the crewmen. The duty officer raised the alarm and mustered the crew. A search of the ship was carried out. No robbers were found onboard. The ship's Master requested the mooring Master to inform the local navy to do a search around the vessel. (IMB, ReCAAP)

10. (U) MALAYSIA: On 23 September, underway offshore supply tug **JM DAMAI** experienced a boarding at position 04:52 N - 104:05 E, approximately 22 nm east-northeast of Pulau Tenggul. Eight pirates wearing masks armed with a hand gun and long knives in a high speed craft approached and boarded the ship. They took hostage all crew members, tied them up and stole their personal belongings. After about three hours, the pirates left the vessel. Crew managed to free themselves and the Master reported the incident to the owners. Vessel returned to the port of departure where the authorities boarded the vessel for an investigation. Master reports a possibility of a mother vessel in the vicinity. (IMB, **IMO**)

11. (U) SINGAPORE: On 22 September at 0735, crew onboard underway tug **BUDGET 17** in the Malacca Strait TSS Westbound Lane notice multiple people onboard the barge in tow **BUDGET 27** that were stealing iron scrap metal pieces. There were three small boats in the vicinity. The incident was reported to the Singapore Police Coast Guard and Singapore Navy. (**IMO**)

12. (U) INDONESIA: On 21 September, at 2230 local time, duty crew onboard an anchored tanker in the Jakarta Anchorage noticed five robbers disembarking the vessel and escaping in a small unlit boat near the stern. The alarm was raised and all crew mustered. Upon searching the vessel it was observed that the robbers had probably gained access during the watch change and had entered the engine room and stolen ship stores. (IMB)

13. (U) INDONESIA: On 21 September, anchored bulk freighter **USOLIE** was boarded at position 00:16 S - 117:41 E, Samarinda Anchorage. Ten robbers armed with knives and steel bars boarded the ship during cargo operations. They took hostage a duty crewman conducting routine rounds, assaulted him, robbed him of personal belongings, tied him up and then broke into the bosun locker. The duty officer noticed the robbers, raised the alarm and crew mustered. Upon hearing the alarm the robbers escaped in their wooden boat with stolen ship stores. Port Authorities informed by VHF radio. (IMB, **IMO**)

14. (U) INDONESIA: On 16 September, berthed chemical tanker **FEN** was boarded by a single robber at position 07:09 S - 112:40 E, Gresik Port. The robber boarded the ship while the crew was busy connecting the cargo hoses. The robber broke into the paint store and stole ship's

stores. Duty crewman noticed the robber and informed the duty officer who raised the alarm and mustered the crew. Upon hearing the alarm, the robber escaped with the stolen stores in a boat. (IMB, IMO)

15. (U) INDONESIA: On 15 September, anchored chemical tanker **CARTOLA** was boarded by four robbers at position 01:04 N - 103:38 E Nipah Anchorage. Duty crew noticed four robbers on the poop deck. Duty officer was informed, alarm raised and crew mustered. Seeing alerted crew the robbers escaped. (IMB, IMO)

16. (U) INDONESIA: On 11 September, four robbers boarded a tanker engaged in STS operations at Nipah anchorage via the poop deck. The alert crewmembers deterred the robbers; the robbers then retreated. The port authorities were notified of the incident by radio but did not respond. (Tradewinds)

K. (U) **NORTH ASIA**: No current incidents to report.

L. (U) **PACIFIC-ANTARCTIC OCEAN**: No current incidents to report.

5. (U) Appendix A: Further Contact Information and Resources

(U) This appendix provides contact information for the author of the WTS as well as other entities that can be contacted with maritime crime reports. It also lists other resources where the WTS is posted and where piracy and maritime crime incident information can be found.

(U) Contact

(U) Originator of this WTS report requests consumer feedback. Originator will incorporate all anti-shipping events and violence against the maritime industry into this weekly message where appropriate. To aid in our reporting, please add the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) to your normal corporate and organizational reporting requirements. The 24-hour watch can be reached at +1 (301) 669-4053.

(U) Other Resources

(U) This Worldwide Threat to Shipping Report is posted at the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency's Maritime Safety site: <http://msi.nga.mil/NGAPortal/MSI.portal>. The International Maritime Bureau (IMB) also publishes a live piracy report based on reporting from the IMB Piracy Reporting Centre in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, listing all piracy and armed robbery incidents in the last ten days: <http://www.icc-ccs.org/>. The PAWW and WTS Reports are posted weekly on the ONI Intel Portal: http://www.oni.navy.mil/Intelligence_Community/piracy.htm

6. (U) Appendix B: Terminology and References

(U) This appendix is provided to promote consistent use of accurate terms of reference in reporting and also identifies those references that were used to gather the information contained in this report. ONI welcomes comment and suggestions for addition or amendment.

(U) Terminology

(U) In order to promote consistent use of accurate terms of reference, the following have been adopted to describe the range of criminal anti-shipping activity and impediments to safe navigation in our worldwide reporting and analysis. Please note that these terms relate to observable activity and are independent of target vessel status and exclude actions by governmental powers in lawful pursuit of their authorities:

- **(U) Attempted Boarding** – Close approach or hull-to-hull contact with report that boarding paraphernalia were employed or visible in the approaching boat.
- **(U) Blocking** – Hampering safe navigation, docking, or undocking of a vessel as a means of protest.
- **(U) Boarding** – Unauthorized boarding of a vessel by persons not part of its complement without successfully taking control of the vessel.
- **(U) Firing Upon** – Weapons discharged at or toward a vessel.
- **(U) Hijacking** – Unauthorized seizure and retention of a vessel by persons not part of its complement.
- **(U) Kidnapping** – Unauthorized forcible removal of persons belonging to the vessel from it.
- **(U) Robbery** – Theft from a vessel or from persons aboard the vessel.
- **(U) Suspicious Approach** – All other unexplained close proximity of an unknown vessel.

(U) Sourcing

(U) ONI derives information in this report from direct reporting and analysis of reports from the following agencies and commercial sources.

- Agence France Presse (AFP)
- Associated Press (AP)
- BBC News (BBC)
- Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO), Denmark (BIMCO)
- EU Naval Forces (EU)
- Fairplay (FP), London
- International Maritime Bureau (IMB), London and Kuala Lumpur
- International Maritime Organization (IMO), London
- Informa Group (INFO), formerly LLP, Llp Limited, London
- Latitude38.com (LAT), website
- Lloyd's List (LL), daily, London
- Local media (LM)
- LSS-SAPU.com (LSS)
- Maritime Administration (MARAD), US

- Maritime Security Council (MSC), US
- Maritime Security Centre – Horn of Africa (MSCHOA), Northwood
- MaRisk by Risk Intelligence (Risk Intelligence/MaRisk)
- National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), Navigation Safety System
- Noonsite.com (Noonsite), website
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization Shipping Center (NSC), Brussels
- Oceanuslive.org (OCL), website
- Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) (analysis and comment)
- Operator (owner or operator of affected vessel)
- Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC), US
- Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia, Information Sharing Center (ReCAAP ISC)
- Reuters.com (Reuters), website
- Royal Australian Navy (RAN)
- Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN)
- Secure Anchorage Area West Africa (SAA)
- Seafarers' Assistance Program (SAP), Kenya
- Tradewinds (TW)
- United Kingdom Maritime Trade Organization (UKMTO)
- United Press International (UPI)
- United States Coast Guard (USCG)
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)
- U.S. Maritime Liaison Office (MARLO) Bahrain
- U.S. Department of State (DOS)
- U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)

(U) **ICOD:** 9 October 2013